Telephone services in Punjab villages

538. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Punjab that have been covered by the telephone network; and

(b) by when every village in the State is likely to have at least one telephone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) 1823 villages in Punjab have been covered by Telephone network.

(b) It is planned to provide a telephone in every village by the year 2000 A.D.

Sanctioning telephone connections

539. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI VALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been introduced to grant an immediate telephone connection on the payment of thirty thousand rupees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what percentage of the new connections is fixed for allotment under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The details of 'Tatkal' scheme for new telephone connections are explained in the subsequent paragraphs.

1. The scheme will be applicable to telephone exchanges all over the country.

2. The prospective subscribers under the scheme will be required to pay a non-interest bearing deposit of Rs. 30,000 per connection. The telephone connection. The telephone connection under the scheme will be provided within two weeks positively after the necessary deposit has been taken.

3. The applications under the scheme will be registered on the priced application form alongwith a payment of Rs. 1,000. The remaining amount of Rs. 29,000 will be collected only if telephone connection is feasible to be provided within two weeks.

4. Separate waiting list of applicants exchangewise under the scheme will be maintained. The telephone connections will be provided strictly according to the date of receipt of application. All efforts should be made to provide the connections with minimum possible delay. Only when it is found that the telephone connection cannot be provided to an applicant due to non-availability of cable pairs, telephone to the next person in the waiting list should be provided. Applicants of all non-feasible cases should be informed immediately.

5. A reservation upto 5 per cent connections to be provided under the scheme will be made at the time of a bulk release. However, connections to individual applicants would only be provided subject to availability and feasibility.

6. General Managers can suspend operation of the scheme in an exchange temporarily through adequate publicity in leading newspapers for certain months when there is no possibility of meeting such demands due to paucity of exchange capacity. For this General Managers will review the position every month and take suitable action regarding operation or otherwise of the scheme.

7. Telephone connections under the scheme would be provided upto a maximum of 5 per cent of any bulk release subject to feasibility as and when the demands are received from the capacity

rendered spare due to shifts, disconnections and from reserve exchange capacity (beyond 90 per cent).

8. Normal rental for the telephone will be charged.

9. A subscriber can surrender the telephone obtained under the scheme at any time. In such an event, the following refunds out of the deposit of Rs. 30,000 will be allowed:

If surrendered during	Amount of refund
1st year . . .	Rs. 12,000/
2nd year. . .	Rs. 15,000/
3rd year and beyond	Rs. 18,000/

10. Applicants who are already registered under the present OYT and Non-OYT categories will be permitted to transfer their registrations to 'Tatkal' Scheme on payment of difference of amount deposit o fthe two schemes. Interest on amount of deposit of OYT/ Non-OYT would be paid upto the date of transfer of the application to this scheme.

11. An advance rental for two months and installation charges would be recovered in the regular bill sent subsequently to the installation of the telephone.

12. If after deposit of initial Rs. 1,000 under the scheme, it is found that the telephone connection is not feasible, the amount will be refunded with 2 weeks. However if the applicant expresses his wish to continue in the waiting list for telephone under 'Tatkal' scheme, he will be allowed to be in the waiting list.

13. A telephone obtained under the scheme would not be eligible for third party transfer in the first three years. The transfer after three years will be permitted as per the existing instructions on the subject.

14. Normal rules for shift/transfer (other than third party) of telephones would be applicable to the telephones provided under this scheme.

Purchase of Jelly filled cables by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam from private sector

540. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is greater pressure from Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. on the Public Sector Hindustan Cables Ltd. to acknowledge its inability to manufacture enough jelly filled cables so that orders can be passed on the private sector cable manufacturers;

(b) whether the HAL is able to supply jelly filled cables for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. to go in for purchase from private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Hindustan Cables Ltd. are able to supply jelly filled cables only in small sizes upto 200 pairs. Higher gauge/size Jelly Filled Cables are not being supplied. Also, the supplies received are inadequate to meet the requirement of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

In order to make up the short falls, cables are being purchased by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam through open tenders from other suppliers.

Protest by the Association of Small Industries of India against increase in the limit of investment in plant and machinery

541. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India has protested against the increase in the limit of investment in plant and machinery beyond the existing limit of Rs. 35 lakh;